(c) Setting up of new airports/upgradation of airports is a continuous process depending upon the traffic potential, demands from airlines operators, commercial viability etc. Airports Authority of India (AAI), from time to time, takes initiative in this regard, keeping in view the above factors, either with its own resources or with the participation of the concerned State Governments through signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with them.

Airport in BTAD

737. SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the formalities has been completed by the authority for early completion of airport in Bodoland Territorial Autonomous District (BTAD);

(b) if so, tentative period for its completion; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not to make any arrangement for the airport in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Pre-feasibility study conducted by AAI on a site identified by Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) did not find the site suitable for construction of an airport. BTC would identify the alternate site.

Working of DGCA

738. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is under staffed, under paid and over worked which has led to many incidents of imbroglio in air journeys and risk to lives of passengers;

(b) if so, the details of air journeys disrupted during last one year for man made reasons; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the working of DGCA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Though Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is facing manpower constraints, it is not true that this has led to any incidents or risk to lives of passengers.

(c) DGCA continues to effectively enforce safety and regulatory standards on all airlines/operators without compromising passenger safety. While Government takes action on continuous basis for filling up the vacant posts, proposal for revival of lapsed vacancies are taken up on need basis.

Staff strength of DGCA

739. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Federal Aviation Administration has proposed to re-assess the precarious staff strength at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA);

(b) if so, whether such assessment are a part of Federal Aviation Administration's routine exercise to ensure that India complies to strengthen its regulatory mechanism and ensure flight safety in accordance with the manifold air traffic growth in recent years; and

(c) whether the proposed assessment at a time when DGCA's score on infrastructure and manpower is low will push India from the present level 1 to the lower third world levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) DGCA has received communication from USA's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding India's Aviation Safety Oversight System under the International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) programme of FAA. International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) had conducted the audit of India in October 2006 wherein they observed shortage of manpower, which affects its performance. DGCA has started preparing for the reassessment with the available resources and has also initiated interim short term, medium term and long term steps to overcome the shortage of manpower by hiring/appointing experts on secondment to augment the strength of DGCA.

(c) Presently, India is in Category I. However, various short term and long term measures have been initiated to strengthen DGCA to avoid any downgrading in FAA reassessment. A plan outlay of Rs. 2.00 crore has been estimated during the year 2009-10 for the National Projects of ICAO.

Governments' position on bailing out Satyam Computers

740. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Commerce and Industry has made a statement that the Centre may provide financial support to Satyam to help it come out of its crisis;

(b) if so, why should the taxpayers' money be used to bail out a company which is in crisis because its chairman committed deliberate fraud over years; and

(c) whether Government is hesitant to confiscate the properties of Satyam Computer and maytas?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) The Company Satyam Computer Services Ltd. is working for and mobilizing financial resources to meet its requirements under the guidance and supervisions of the new Directors appointed by the Government on the Board of the company, at its own strength, and there is no proposal to provide a financial bail out to the Company.

(c) The Government is taking action as appropriate and necessary under the law as warranted.

Steps to prevent corporate fraud

741. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state: